



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Alaska Region  
Tongass National Forest

648 Mission Street  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
Phone: (907) 225-3101  
Fax: (907) 228-6215

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File Code: 1950/2810

Date: April 13, 2012

Dear Public Participant:

Enclosed is your copy of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the Bell Island Geothermal Lease on the Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District, Tongass National Forest. The Forest Service is conducting this analysis to supplement the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) prepared jointly by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service. The PEIS examined, in part, the potential environmental effects associated with consenting to three pending geothermal lease applications within the Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District. This SDEIS will address the Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) status of Bell Island and a small portion of the adjacent mainland on the Cleveland Peninsula, the potential effects of any consent determination on the IRA characteristics, and values of this IRA (the North Cleveland IRA). It will also address the potential effects on subsistence and the social and economic conditions in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, the area most likely to be affected by any geothermal leases on Bell Island. This document analyzes a No-Action alternative and one Action Alternative. Under the No-Action alternative, the Forest Service would not consent to the three pending geothermal leases. Under the Action Alternative, the Forest Service would consent to the three pending geothermal leases, with appropriate stipulations.

At this point I have elected to not pick a preferred alternative. You should review both alternatives since either alternative, or a combination of these alternatives, or a new alternative within the range of these alternatives, may be selected in the final decision for this project.

It is important in the planning process that you as a reviewer provide comments. Comments should be submitted prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate your concerns (40 CFR 1503.3). Individuals or non-federal organizations who submit written comments or otherwise express interest in this particular action during this comment period will have standing to appeal the decision.

Comments received in response to this document, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered, but will not provide the respondent with standing to participate in subsequent administrative or judicial review.

The 45 day comment period for the SDEIS will begin on the day of the Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register. A public notice will also be placed in the *Ketchikan Daily News*, the newspaper of record for the Tongass National Forest. The submission of untimely comments will affect your ability to participate in subsequent administrative or judicial review.



Please send written comments to:

Ketchikan-Misty Fiords National Monument  
Tongass National Forest  
ATTN: Bell Island Geothermal  
3031 Tongass Avenue  
Ketchikan, AK. 99901-5743

Comments may also be e-mailed to: [comments-alaska-tongass-ketchikan-mistyfiord@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-alaska-tongass-ketchikan-mistyfiord@fs.fed.us)  
with Bell Island in the subject line.

If you would like additional information please call the Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District  
at (907) 225-2148 during regular business hours, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The document can also be accessed on-line at:  
[http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/projects/nepa\\_project.shtml?project=35026](http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/projects/nepa_project.shtml?project=35026)

Sincerely,

/s/ Forrest Cole  
FORREST COLE  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: Jeff DeFreest